THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discussions with E.C. Troika Leaders

2730. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
CHOWDHARI RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the E.C. Troika leaders, consisting of the Foreign Ministers of Portugal and Holland and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of United Kingdom had detailed discussions with him on 4th March, 1992 for upgrading bilateral ties and increasing cooperation, both economic and political, between India and the European Community;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussions;

(c) whether N.P.T. and human rights issue were also discussed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes. The E.C. Troika leaders supported in principle India's request for expansion of cooperation in political, economic, cultural, educational, trade and science & technology fields. They would place this matter before the E.C. Council of Ministers for a favourable decision.

(c) and (d) Yes. The Government of India explained its well-known policy on N.P.T. and India's objections to the signing of the N.P.T. which is discriminatory. The E.C. side showed understanding of our position. In response to the EC reference to the human rights issue, the Indian side explained its record and its commitment to human rights as.a democratic country. The Indian side briefed the EC about the checks against human rights violations in the form of the independent judiciary, free press, etc.

Setting up of a Vocational Training Centre in Maldives

2731. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleassed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a vocational training centre in Maldives so as to enable that country to meet its vast training needs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER- OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding for the gift of a Vocational Training Centre to the Government of Maldives was signed on the occassion of the Second Session of the Indo-Maldives Joint Commission held in New Delhi on March 2-3 1992.

The project will be executed by HMT (International) Limited on a turn key basis. The project is expected to cater to the Maldivian requirement for technical training facilities like machine shop and fitting, refrigeration & airconditioning, electronics and building trade.

तिब्बत के साथ सम्बन्ध

2732. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) तिब्बत के संबंध में सरकार की क्या नीति है; और

(ख) तिब्बत में मानवाधिकारों के हनन के सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी): (क) सरकार की लम्बे समय से चली आ रही नीति यह है कि तिब्बत चीन का स्वायत्त क्षेत्र है।

(ख) सरकार का मत है कि तिब्बत से संबंधित मसलों का समाधान शांतिपूर्ण बातचीत के जरिये चीनी प्राधिकारियों और तिब्बती समुदाय द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए।